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**DRAMA 2 ( ONLINE CLASSES)**

**Semester 6**

**Professor Hakim**

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Students are expected to download and watch the film based on the play King Lear (the BBC version). Or just read the play. Then read the notes which follow and which are organized according to the following outline.

**WEEK 1:** *King Lear*, Act 4, Scene 7: Lear in the storm: The end of the Journey.

**WEEK 2:** *King Lear*, Act 5, Scene 3: The death of the hero

**Week 3:** *The Taming of the Shrew*, by William Shakespeare:  
The process of taming Kate

**Week 4:** Kate becomes tame

**WEEK 5 :** A general Review of both *King Lear* and *The Taming of The Shrew*.

## **WEEK 1:**

### **King Lear** **Act 4, Scene 7**

#### **Lear in the storm: The end of the Journey**

#### **Quotes from Act 4, Scene 7:**

##### **KING LEAR:**

*Where have I been? Where am I? Fair daylight?*

*I am mainly ignorant*

*What place this is; and all the skill I have*

*Remembers not these garments; nor I know not*

*Where I did lodge last night.*

*For, as I am a man, I think this lady*

*To be my child Cordelia.*

*I am a very foolish fond old man,*

*I pray, weep not:*

*If you have poison for me, I will drink it.*

*I know you do not love me; for your sisters*

*Have, as I do remember, done me wrong:*

*You have some cause, they have not.*

*You must bear with me:*

*Pray you now, forget and forgive: I am old and foolish.*

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## **ANALYSIS OF THE SCENE:**

### **A/ Introduction:**

The intensity and power of the storm has made Lear mad.

He loses consciousness. He goes to 'sleep'. 'Sleep' in here is a symbol of the 'death' of Lear of the beginning of the play.

The suffering has changed him: he has become humble, human; he has discovered some realities; he has confessed his errors.

Cordelia has come from France with her army to defend her father against his evil daughters.

Cordelia in the beginning of the play has been banished by her father. But, as she says before, she loves him. Her love is very strong, it does not change with external circumstances.

Her coming to rescue him is a proof that her love is sincere.

In addition to her army, she also brought a doctor to cure Lear from his madness.

Lear is waking up, and the first quote:

*Where have I been? Where am I? Fair daylight?*

*I am mainly ignorant*

*What place this is; and all the skill I have*

*Remembers not these garments; nor I know not*

*Where I did lodge last night.*

represents the first words he utters when he wakes up, comes back to consciousness.

As with 'sleep', 'waking' is used as a symbol: it symbolizes the birth of a new Lear.

This Aristotle refers to as

**The Rise**: this is when the hero rises to perfection: he has got rid of his flaws. As he does with the other Aristotelian features of a tragedy, Shakespeare is reproducing this in his play when he makes Lear rise. This happens at the end of the journey in the storm. This is what we are going to analyze in the following section.

#### B/ **Analysis of the scene:**

*Where have I been? Where am I? Fair daylight?*

*I am mainly ignorant*

*What place this is; and all the*

*skill I have*

*Remembers not these garments;*

*nor I know not*

*Where I did lodge(lodging) last night.*

He does not remember the past: so, the old Lear is gone, he is 'dead'.

He does not know the present: he is coming into a new world, a world he does not know.

Like a new born baby (fair daylight). His memory is in darkness.

So, what we see here is the 'birth' of a new Lear.

The storm has created a new person. A new Lear is emerging. He is the result of his suffering in the storm.

So, what are the characteristics of this new Lear? The Lear of the Rise?

**KING LEAR** says

*I am a very foolish fond old man,*

He admits he is stupid (not wise); that is someone who is not perfect, someone who makes mistakes.

This is another idea which shows that the new Lear is different from the one of the beginning of the play (the proud, self centred one). Lear now recognizes his defects.

This is why he goes on to say

*I pray, weep not:  
If you have poison for me, I will drink it.*

*I know you do not love me; for your sisters  
Have, as I do remember, done me wrong:  
You have some cause, they have not.*

Admission of his error/mistake in front of Cordelia whom he has unjustly banished (you have some cause). He is even ready for punishment (poison). He would understand if she does not love him.

Cordelia would never take revenge, she has a big heart.

She weeps out of joy to be with her father again.

In the end, Lear says:

*You must bear with me:  
Pray you now, forget and forgive: I am old and foolish.*

Asking for forgiveness from the daughter he has wronged.

This is the utmost humility.

He also repeats that he has flaws (bear with me) and that he is foolish. He is no longer what he was at the beginning of the play.

So, to sum up, there are three characteristics of the new Lear:  
characteristics which represent the rise of Lear:

1. Admission that he is not perfect 'foolish'
2. Admission of his errors in front of Cordelia, the very person he has wronged
3. Asking for forgiveness from Cordelia.

All these are the characteristics of the new Lear. So, he has become a better person in the course of the play. He has risen to perfection.

Lear's personality has been shaped by suffering from which he has learnt a lot.

He is completely different from Lear of the beginning of the play.

Unfortunately, he is not going to be given a new chance to live and use the experience he has accumulated.

When he has changed, when he has got rid of his flaws, he dies. This is his tragedy.

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## **WEEK 2:**

### **King Lear** **Act 5, Scene 3**

#### **The death of the hero**

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This is another feature which Shakespeare borrows from Aristotle. Aristotle says that the hero of a tragedy dies in the end. He dies at the very moment he rises to perfection. Moreover, he says that it is the audience who benefit from the experience of the dead hero.

Lear and Cordelia are caught by the army of Regan and Goneril. They are taken to prison.

Cordelia is hanged / killed.

Her death is tragic because she is innocent; but this is life: both good and bad people can die. The tragedy of the death of good people is that we feel that their death is unjust.

The death of Cordelia comes as a terrible shock to Lear. When he is reunited to her, he hopes that they will live a long time together. This is not what happens. His hope is shattered (destroyed).

This is tragic because Man cannot control the future: we have hopes and wishes, but sometimes these are not fulfilled.

The tragedy presents two forms of the tragedy of Man:

1. We are sometimes not given a second chance;
2. We cannot control our destiny. We have wishes, but we have no control over the results.

Lear brings Cordelia dead in his arms. He feels pain and agony.

### **King Lear**

*Howl, howl, howl*

this is a cry of pain, suffering

*O, you are men of stones!*

they have no pity, no humanity.

*She is gone for ever.*

She will never come back

*I know when one is dead, and when one lives.*

*She is dead as earth.*

*No ...no life*

*Why should a dog, a horse, a rat have life, and thou no breath at all.*

Lear here is expressing his feeling of injustice at the death of Cordelia.

*Thou will come no more,*

*Never, never, never, never*

He asks those with him:

*Pray you undo this button.*

He feels he cannot breathe, because of the shock of Cordelia's death.

*Do you see this, look on her!*

*Look her lips!*

He thinks Cordelia is alive.

*Look there! Look there!*

He dies believing Cordelia is alive. He dies happy.

So, the play is a tragedy ; Lear at the very moment he has achieved perfection dies. He is not given a chance to live and benefit from the lessons he learnt.

It is the audience who benefit from the whole experience of Lear.

1. They learn the dangers of pride and of self centredness: these flaws may have tragic consequences as the play shows
2. They also learn the lessons which the hero has learnt: humility and responsibility.  
(so, we learn to avoid flaws/defects and get qualities).
3. They learn that there are other people who experience worse conditions than they do. And this makes them reconciled with their problems.

Sometimes, we think that our problems are the worst.

But, when we read or know other people's problems and compare them with ours, we realize that our problems are not really the worst. This makes us accept our problems.

So, in general a tragedy has a didactic (it teaches) and a therapeutic (psychological) function: it teaches us something which makes us psychologically feel better.

In spite of the tragedy, life will continue.

Life continues based on the experience of the tragic hero.

In this play, a young generation will take over the kingdom and will try not to repeat the same errors made by the old generation.

This young generation has seen what happened and have learnt the important lessons which will make them run the country in a better way.

So, a tragedy does not have a value for individuals only; but for society as a whole.

So, in conclusion, we can say

that Art (drama, plays in this case) has a mission which is to reform / change both people and society.

The artist is a committed writer whose aim is not to entertain only but to contribute to making his society a better place to live in.

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### **Week 3: *The Taming of the Shrew*, by William Shakespeare, the process of taming Kate**

In the previous weeks, in class and online, we have studied a tragedy, King Lear. In the following weeks, we will study a comedy by Shakespeare, The Taming of the Shrew. Students are required to download and watch the film of this play (the 1967 version). Or just read the play. Then read the following notes about it.

#### **Introduction:**

If we look at the title, we find two key words:

The word ‘Shrew’ which represents a person who refuses to conform to social norms / traditions. In the play, the ‘Shrew’ is called Kate; and the social norm / tradition she refuses to accept / to conform to is that the elder daughter must get married before the younger one.

The second key term in the title is ‘Taming’: which means domesticating, making someone conform. So, in the play, society tries to domesticate Kate, to make her accept the social norm / tradition: getting married before her younger sister. This means marrying anybody and quickly.

The form ‘ing’ in the word ‘taming’ means the process of taming takes a long time.

In our study of the play, we will look at the different means society uses in this process of taming the Shrew.

## **I/ Means society uses to tame Kate:**

### **A/ The use of the family:**

In the play, the father refuses to give his consent to the marriage of his younger daughter before the marriage of the elder sister. When Kate refuses to marry just to make it possible for her younger sister to marry, she becomes an obstacle to the norm. The father, then, offers money to whoever forces Kate to marry. Petruchio, the hero of the play, obliges Kate to marry him in return for the money her father promises him. So, Kate is sold in order to preserve the tradition.

The second means which is used in the play to make Kate tamed, in addition to family and money, is

### **B/ The use of the wedding and the church:**

These two means are used to make Kate's marriage a legally and socially acceptable relationship. The church, in particular, is used to ensure that the relationship (marriage) should be sacred.

Shakespeare shows how religion is used for the sake of conformity.

Shakespeare ridicules the church by making fun of its representative, the priest: he shows how he has no control over the wedding ceremony.

So, comedy is not used simply for the sake of making us laugh, but as a means to criticize the wedding ceremony as well as the church. The third means which is used to tame Kate is

### **C/ The use of marriage:**

Marriage will make Kate tame because there are behaviors in this relationship which will make her accept the traditions.

So, family, wedding ceremony and church began the taming of Kate but did not finish it; it is marriage which will finish it through the following stages:

1/ **The journey to her husband's house:** this is a stage in the taming of Kate:

The journey has as aim to weaken her through making her physically exhausted: Kate is forced to travel a long distance from her father's home to her husband's in difficult conditions.

2. **Mental/psychological exhaustion:** through humiliation: She is made to ride a donkey and without assistance.

3. **Depriving her from food:** When she reaches her husband's house, she is not given food, she is obliged to go to bed hungry. This in addition to physical exhaustion and humiliation combine to make her an obedient person.

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## **Week 4: Kate becomes tame**

### **Kate is Tamed:**

The result of the Taming process is a success: the beginning of conformity happens when Kate is shown doing housework. We see a completely new image of Kate: calm and playing the role of an obedient wife.

This is the beginning of the transformation of Kate into a conformist lady: doing the duties of a housewife. This is highlighted by the reaction of Petruchio; he cannot believe his eyes. The change is huge.

What we notice is that she has not only been tamed herself but she is also taming the whole house: she is civilizing the house which before she came was a wild, barbaric one. Even the servants, she turned into well mannered and respectable human beings.

She is changing the house from wild to tame, civilized and refined. She has become an agent of transformation/ taming.

She is introducing a touch of femininity into the house. This is the role society wants her to play/ to conform to.

The Journey back to her father's house to attend her sister's wedding ceremony. This journey indicates another stage in her conformity:

She is calm, accepting and obedient. This is an important feature in Shakespeare's plays. At the beginning of his plays, we see how a character is not well integrated in society; a character who refuses to conform to traditions. This character goes on a journey of education and change. On the journey back, we see a transformation. The character is

ready to get integrated in society. This applies perfectly well to Kate in The Taming of the Shrew. On her return journey, we see how she is ready to get integrated in society.

The return journey shows this in another way: through her her constant echoing/repeating of what, her husband, Petruchio says. This is another sign of her total transformation.

In the final episode of the play which occurs during her sister's wedding, the behavior of Kate demonstrates that her taming is complete: we understand the importance of this if we compare this conduct with that of her attitude and behavior at the beginning of the play.

She has changed into a tame person, but has also become an agent of taming other women in the play.

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**WEEK 5 : A general Review of both *King Lear* and *The Taming of The Shrew*.**

This will take place when students come back to class.

It involves a review of the main points studied in both plays. This is followed by a question and answer period where students can ask all the questions about any aspect of the plays they do not understand; and listening to, and discussing, any comments which students can come up with.

It also includes discussing how to deal with exam questions.